

St. Thomas, W.I. 20th Aug. 1879

My dear Professor!

Your note of 4th ult. I have received and beg to thank you for your obliging exertions with regard to the publication of my treatise.

I am packing the box intended for your museum but as the Steamer is advertised to leave unexceptionally early I am not quite certain that it will go by this opportunity. I hope however to have it despatched to-day. In it I send a small collection of aerial roots especially of Orchidaceae and Arvicidae, which I have been forming during my investigations of this most interesting feature in the vegetable organisation, and which both from their anatomical structure as on account of the part they play in the life of the plant are of the highest interest, as far as I know however only very little known as yet. Among them are also some very curious aerial roots of *Arvicaria arida*, which not like most others serve the purpose of attaching or supporting the plant, but which protrude erect into the air from the ground, originating from the subterranean roots to the height of some 3-6 inches, and the importance of which is not quite clear to me. They form a diminutive forest of erect, naked little trees on the bottom under the parent tree.

The velamen in Orchidaceous roots is pretty well known, and represents very interesting and numerous variations as to structure and size, the spiral threads in their cells especially being often very different in different species.

Its thickness depends no doubt very much on the conditions under which plants live, as those growing in drier localities

have the velamen much more developed than such that grow in moist places.

Among the Aroidae I beg to call your attention to the structure of the roots of several species of *Anthurium*, especially also of that of *Philodendron giganteum*, on which I have been at work lately and on which I hope soon to publish some remarks.

Besides these roots there are in the box some aculei from species of *Zanthoxylum*, excrescences evidently of the cork, in *Z. odoroxyllum* often forming long ridges of 1-2 inches high, down the stem.

Furthermore some fruits, among which the *Stomax* is from St. Kitts, not growing here, and the *Pilocarpus* quite a rare thing, found only in a few places (Montserrat, St. Jan). I hope soon to be able to send you seeds of that interesting Rhamnaceae, *Requesia latifolia*, a description of which I once sent you, and which is remarkable for having a very large ruminant albumen.

I shall be happy to correct the proof sheets of my treatise myself, especially as I may have some little corrections and additions to make. As for Mr. Brown, I beg to say, that I only made his acquaintance here in St. Thomas, where he had come to go on an excursion to some of the other islands, and that I was pleased to make his acquaintance, as he seemed to take a great interest in botany and evidently had studied a deal himself. I am sorry that an unacceptable proposal in this respect should have ^{been} made to Prof. Baird on my part, but I hope I may be excused for being ignorant as to the relations or personal

merits of gentlemen from a distant country, which I only happen to see accidentally, although during his stay here I found nothing in Mr. B. to take exception at. I need hardly say more on this subject, as both you, my dear Professor, as well as Prof. Baird will be able to, I trust, judge of the merits of the case for yourselves.

As to the structure of exogenous trees I shall not fail to have my attention directed to that matter.

Allow me finally to offer you my best and heartfelt congratulations on your narrow escape from a railway accident, of which I read in "The Gardeners Monthly of Philadelphia" ^{and} which, it appears, might nearly have proved fatal to you and yours.

With best regards believe me to remain

Sincerely yours

J. Rogers